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Diary of Services.

First Battalion

The Royal Scots.

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DIARY OF SERVICES

OF

THE FIRST BATTALION

THE ROYAL SCOTS

DURING THE

BOER WAR.

SOUTH AFRICA, 1899-1902.

LONDON
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1904.

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THIS *Diary, a record of the Services of the First Battalion, The Royal Scots, during the Boer War, 1899-1902, which has been printed under the kind superintendence of* MAJOR GEORGE DEANE, *is*

Dedicated

TO THE OFFICERS,
NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS
AND MEN

who laid down their lives, and to the Survivors whose gallantry in action, and uncomplaining endurance under great hardships, added to the glorious traditions of the Regiment.

The Illustrations are from Enlargements made from Snap-shots, taken in the field.

W. DOUGLAS, Colonel,
Commanding 1st Batt. The Royal Scots.

April, 1904.

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DIARY OF SERVICES.

FIRST BATTALION THE ROYAL SCOTS.

1899.

21st August ON this date confidential orders were received for the battalion to be held in readiness to proceed to South Africa, should hostilities with the South African Republics break out, and was detailed as Corps Troops, and to furnish a Section of Mounted Infantry Scottish Company.

7th October On this date the order to mobilize was received, the 9th of October to be considered the first day of mobilization.

10th October Lieut. L. K. Smith left Head-quarters with a Mounted Infantry Section for Aldershot and South Africa.

13th October First batch of reservists arrived from the Depôt.

19th October Last batch of reservists arrived at Head-quarters.

24th October The battalion was inspected at Holywood Barracks by Field-Marshal Lord Roberts, V.C., Commanding the forces in Ireland, who addressed the men and congratulated them on their fine appearance.

31st October Orders were received to embark for South Africa.

4th November "G" Company, under Captain Gardiner, formed the advance party, and left for Cork.

5th November The battalion left in two special trains on Sunday night for Queenstown, and embarked on board the Transport "Dictator," Harrison Line, on the evening of the 6th, and sailed that evening for South Africa, experiencing very rough weather.

OFFICERS EMBARKED.

Lieut.-Colonel E. P. Morgan Payler.
Major Birkbeck, Acting 2nd in Command.

Captain Molyneux Seel.	Lieut. Price.
„ Daniel.	2nd Lieut. Searight.
„ Gardiner.	„ Croker.
„ B.-S.-Penoyre.	„ Bussell.
„ Broadley, C.W.	„ Mudie.
„ Annand.	„ Rollo.
„ Moir, A.J.G., Adjt.	„ Bellingham.
Lieut. Puxley.	„ Ward.
„ Bourne.	„ Preston.
„ Drysdale.	Quar.-Mast. Harris.

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1899.
5th November.

ATTACHED.

Major Hetherington, R.A.M.C.
Lieut. Hill, Berkshire Regiment.
„ Seckham, Staffordshire Regiment.
2nd Lieut. James, Staffordshire Regiment.
„ Budge, 2nd Royal Scots.

Strength of the battalion embarked at Queenstown—27 officers, one W.O., and 1,010 N.C.O.'s and men, of whom, over 700 were called up from the Army Reserve.

The following is an extract from "The Scotsman" of the 27th of October:—

"Mr. Wyndham (Under Secretary of State) was asked, in "the House of Commons, by Sir Howard Vincent regarding "certain matters in connection with the army and Transvaal "war.

"In every case his answer was satisfactory.

"In regard to the muster of reservists, it was particularly "gratifying. A Scottish regiment had, it was ascertained, "beaten all others.

"Sir Howard Vincent, who put the question, thought this "distinction belonged to the 'Royal Welsh Fusiliers,' but he "was mistaken.

"'The Royal Scots,' said Mr. Wyndham, is the only regi- "ment in which every reservist is accounted for, and 'The "'Royal Scots' got the cheer they deserved."

3rd December — The battalion reached East London, South Africa, and the disembarkation was completed on the 4th. It entrained and reached Putter's Kraal on the 5th, and joined the 3rd Division under General Gatacre. On the 7th, two companies were sent to Sterkstroom, and on the 9th, two companies to Molteno, which place they were to hold during General Gatacre's movement on Stormberg.

10th December — Major Birkbeck, who commanded these two companies, hearing of the disaster at Stormberg, asked to be allowed to move forward to cover the retreat, but was not permitted to do so.

11th December — They finally withdrew to Cyphergat with General Gatacre, and,

15th December — on the 11th, were sent to Bushman's Hoek. On the 15th, head-quarters and three companies moved to Sterkstroom, and the battalion was concentrated there on the 24th.

ACTION OF THE LOPERBERG.

1900.
3rd January — Half-battalion (E, F, G, H) left Sterkstroom by rail for Bushman's Hoek under Major Birkbeck, found the Mounted

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1900.

3rd January — Infantry engaged about Cyphergat with Boers on the Loperberg. The half-battalion extended, and moved directly on the Loperberg, whilst Gatacre moved to turn the enemy's left. The half-battalion was shelled, but the Boers gave way to the turning movement.

4th January — The half-battalion returned to Sterkstroom.

15th January — The battalion took part in a reconnaissance in force, under Colonel Smith Dorrien, D.S.O., and returned to Sterkstroom same day.

22nd January — "D" Company, 106 strong, was formed into Mounted Infantry, Captain E. H. Molyneux Seel in command, leaving the battalion with seven companies.

27th January — Five of these, with head-quarters, were sent to Penhoek, and two (A and B), under Captain Daniel, to Bird's River Siding (near Dordrecht).

The Penhoek Garrison consisted besides of two companies of Brabant's Horse, and a detachment of Cape Mounted Rifles, with four seven-pounder mountain guns. Captain A. J. G. Moir was Staff Officer.

1st February — Two fifteen-pounders, 79th Battery R.F.A., replaced two seven-pounders, which were sent to Cyphergat.

7th February — Boers estimated at 500, with one field and two machine guns, after cutting off and capturing a picquet of Brabant's Horse at Brown's Farm, occupied a kopje between our position and Auchamp's Farm, but were driven off by artillery fire.

Action at Bird's River.

On the same day, the force holding Bird's River, consisting of A and B Companies, about 150 C.M.R., the Xlonga Rifles (about forty), two seven-pounders, and two machine guns, was attacked, the Boers commencing by shelling the bivouac at 6,000 yards. Half of "A" Company was sent forward under Lieut. Bussell to sieze a kopje about one-and-a-half miles on the right front, towards which the Boers were making. It succeeded, and was at once attacked in front, whilst another portion of the enemy crept up a donga on its left rear, and succeeded in getting within 500 yards, and wounding No. 3571 Pte. Bathgate and No. 5678 Pte. Brennan; the left flank of the company, which had already been reinforced by Captain Daniel with the other half-company, was at once thrown back.

The Boers were forced back, and driven across open ground under fire of the British artillery and machine guns.

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1900.

7th February — They acknowledged the loss of several men. No. 6173 Drummer Davies (aged 19 years) displayed conspicuous courage and coolness in this action, and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

18th February — Captain T. S. C. Broadley died of enteric fever.

Affair at Penhoek.

19th February — At 3.30 a.m. the Boers occupied a kopje about 3,000 yards north of the camp, their advance having been reported by a picquet of the Cape Mounted Police, which retired.

The two fifteen-pounders under Lieut. Sir John Keene, R.A., who had the range to a nicety, prevented the enemy bringing his guns into action, whilst the Cape Mounted Police, supported by half "F" Company Royal Scots, demonstrated on his right; at 8.30 a.m. the Boers retired; their strength was estimated at 700 with two guns.

24th February — A and B Companies were sent to Dordrecht, where they were joined by "E" on the 26th.

Action at Labuschagnes Nek.

4th March — "B," "D," and "E" Companies, with guns and Colonial Division, left Dordrecht at midnight on the 3rd, and reached Labuschagnes Nek at about 4 a.m. The Boers were in position about two miles in front, their left on a high kopje, their right on a conical kopje, the two connected by a "Nek;" the approach was restricted by precipitous ground, which necessitated the advance being made through a defile bounded by precipices. The Xlonga Rifles were sent up for this frontal attack, whilst Brabant's Horse moved to turn the enemy's left; at 1,200 yards from the Boer position the Rifles stopped, and could not advance. "B" and "E" Companies Royal Scots, under Captain Wingate, were ordered to advance and seize the Nek. "E" Company led, supported by "B;" each company extended by sections with 300 to 400 yards distance; they passed through the ranks of the Rifles, and drove the enemy from the Nek, which they occupied, but found themselves under a cross fire from the kopjes on either flank; the men got cover in the rocks, and Captain Wingate, with a few men, dashed across a fire-swept stretch of ground, and got to within 600 yards of the enemy on the kopje on the right, separating that portion of the enemy. He found it impossible to get further with so few men, and the party, taking cover, held the ground they had so gallantly reached for six hours. The attack of the

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Before Dewetsdorp. The battalion moving into first line, 23rd April, 1900. *Plate II. (see page 16).*

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1900.

4th March — Colonial Division only partially succeeded, and Captain Wingate retired by rushing individual men under cover of fire from the remainder. Second Lieut. H. L. Budge had a narrow escape, a bullet struck his water-bottle which hung in front of his body, and the bullet glanced off, and passed through his wrist. No. 4236 Pte. Preston and No. 3810 Pte. Binnersley were also wounded.

5th March — The companies returned to Sterkstroom, where the battalion was concentrated on the 6th. On this date, "C" Company was formed into Mounted Infantry under Captain F. J. Duncan, strength 107.

7th March — 11th March — The battalion marched northwards, and reached Klipfontein, three miles south of Bethulie Bridge (Orange Free State) on the 11th.

Captain Seel's Mounted Company was in action at the bridge, and Private H. Kane was wounded.

12th March — The battalion marched to Burghersdorp, where it entrained at 7 p.m., and reached Bethulie Railway Bridge (destroyed) at 12.30 a.m., returning to Klipbankfontein same day.

Colonel R. Allan was appointed to command the brigade, which, in addition to the Royal Scots, had four battalions—the Northumberland Fusiliers, Royal Berkshires, Royal Irish Rifles, and Derbyshires.

17th March — Marched to Bethulie and encamped.

23rd March — The 1st Volunteer Service Company (L), under Captain R. W. Campbell, joined, strength 112—a very fine body of men.

27th March — A draft of one hundred, mostly Section D Reservists, under Major W. Douglas (Second in Command) joined and formed a Company "M," afterwards "C."

28th March — Head-quarters and six companies (A, B, E, G, L, M), with 2nd Northumberland Fusiliers, left Bethulie, and reached Springfontein at dusk on the 29th.

29th March — 31st March — At 11 p.m. sudden orders were received to entrain in half-an-hour, without baggage or transport, and proceed to Ferreira Siding (three miles South of Bloemfontein) to occupy Leeuberg.

1st April — Arrived there the 1st April, 9.30 a.m., and sangared the position. Two guns R.F.A. and a few of Montmorency's Scouts joined.

2nd April — Lord Kitchener inspected the position, and commended the battalion for so promptly entrenching it.

6th April — Orders were received that the Royal Sussex Regiment would relieve the battalion, which was to entrain for Bethany.

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1900.

6th April — Left Leeuberg 7 p.m. in a blinding storm to entrain at 9 p.m. at Ferreira Siding; the train, however, did not arrive till

7th April — 6 a.m. on the 7th, and officers and men were drenched and laid in the opening during the night. Picked up "M" Company at Kaalspruit and reached Bethany at 11 a.m.

8th April — The 3rd Battalion of the Regiment joined the Brigade.

10th April — General Chermside took over the command of the 3rd Division *vice* Gatacre; and the Brigade, less 3rd Battalion

11th April — Royal Scots, marched on the 11th to the relief of Wepener. Halted at Reddersberg—torrential rain and storm throughout the night in bivouac, every one drenched. "M" Company was designated "C."

14th April — The Brigade reached Rosendal—the rain continued. A, B and C Companies held a kopje in rear of the bivouac.

18th April — General Rundle arrived with 8th Division, and assumed command of the force—still heavy rain.

19th April — The force marched at 7 a.m. Came in contact with Boer scouts, bivouaced at Orlogs Poort.

Action at Waakerstroom.

20th April — The force marched at 7.15 a.m., 8th Division leading; the battalion formed the rear-guard. The enemy was driven from the hills, behind which the force went into bivouac. Great difficulty in posting the outposts in the darkness, and picquets furnished by different regiments were mixed up. The enemy had retired to a strong position covering Dewetsdorp.

Action before Dewetsdorp.

21st April — The force paraded under arms at 5.30 a.m. Enemy's guns commenced firing at 6 a.m. (the men cheering to find they had not retired), and continued throughout the day—the battalion was left reserve. Same evening, orders were received to be ready to attack next day.

22nd April — At daybreak orders were received for the battalion to form first line on the left of the attack. The attack was subsequently cancelled. The strength of the Boers was 3,000, with twelve guns.

Plate IV., page 19

23rd April — Boer shells at daybreak burst over the battalion, its position having been located through some men taking their blankets back to the wagons coming in sight of the enemy—range 3,500 yards. At 8.25 a.m. the battalion relieved the Scots Guards in first line on the left; they had suffered loss chiefly in their Reserve, which was on the reverse slope

Plate III., page 17

Plate II., page 13

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Before Dewetsdorp. The battalion at dinner under fire, 23rd April, 1900.

Plate III. (*see page 16.*)

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Before Dewetsdorp. Major Douglas in Bullet-proof shelter, 23rd April, 1900. **Plate IV.** (see page 16).

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1900.

without artificial cover. Half "A" and half "B" Companies relieved the Scots Guards in the trenches; this relief was necessarily exposed to the enemy's view, and immediately drew heavy fire from artillery, pom poms and rifles. The bullets for the most part passed over the crest, and fell amongst the companies on the reverse slope. Five men were hit during the first half-hour, by the end of which each company had thrown up a parapet. 23rd April

The wounded men were: No. 3955 Pte. Salt, No. 4064 Pte. Toshack, No. 3596 Pte. Holland, No. 6399 Pte. Narey, and No. 3739 Pte. Pepper. Many others were hit through their clothes. Range 2,500 yards. The parapets were thrown up chiefly with the "entrenching implement," and gave complete protection from the shells and bullets which fell all that and the next day.

The same situation; shells and bullets from daybreak to dark, ending with a prolonged pom pom fire. 24th April

Advanced on the enemy's position, which had now been evacuated, and bivouacked on the heights above Dewetsdorp; the 8th Division went on to Thaba 'Nchu. 25th April

The Brigade remained at Dewetsdorp until the 30th of April, when the battalion accompanied the Brigade towards Thaba 'Nchu to assist Rundle, whose baggage was in difficulty. Reached Reitfontein, and returned to Dewetsdorp on the 1st of May without meeting the enemy. 30th April 1st May

The battalion, with one Section 68th Battery R.F.A., the Derbyshire Regiment Mounted Company, moved on Wepener, which it reached on the 3rd of May, and occupied a position west of Jammersberg Drift, which had lately been the scene of the seige of Wepener. The mounted patrols were in daily contact with the enemy. 2nd May 3rd May

Fifty Boers under De Jager surrendered. Supplies were got chiefly through Basutuland. 7th May Plate V., page 23

The Caledon River was crossed, and a position occupied on the Jammersberg, commanding the town of Wepener, and resting on the Basutu border. 12th May

A draft (100), chiefly men of Section "D" Army Reserve, joined and formed a new Company "D." 2nd June

"E" and "L" Companies, under Captain Wingate, moved to Dewetsdorp, followed on the 11th by "B" and "H" Companies under Major Douglas, who had up to this been Staff Officer to the Wepener force, and was now appointed to command the force at Dewetsdorp, which consisted of two Sections 68th Battery R.F.A., one Company Imperial Yeomanry, and one-and-a-half Battalions of Infantry. 10th June 11th June

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1900.

27th June — Second Lieut. J. F. S. Preston died of enteric at Dewetsdorp.

30th June — A draft of over 200 from home joined the half-battalion at Dewetsdorp.

4th August — The battalion remained at Dewetsdorp and Wepener until the 4th of August, when four companies (500) from Dewetsdorp, together with the R.F.A., marched to Bloemfontein in accordance with orders.

8th August — It reached that place on the 8th, and at once entrained B,

9th & 11th Aug. Plate VI., page 25 — C, E, and L Companies, reaching Kroonstadt on the 9th and Pretoria on the 11th; all ranks were in great spirits on being brought to the front after their long stay in the Orange Free State. At Pretoria, the half-battalion was inspected by Lord Roberts, who ordered that it should be furnished with fresh 1st Line Transport (the original having been detained at Bloemfontein), ready to proceed to the front.

16th & 17th Aug. — It entrained on the 16th and 17th, and reached Groot Oliphants River on the 17th, where Major Douglas took over command from Colonel Crabbe, Grenadier Guards, strength half-battalion 1st Royal Scots, one battalion Mounted Infantry, and two naval 4.7 guns. The head-quarters of the battalion (leaving 50 men at Wepener), with four companies reached Dewetsdorp on the 8th of August, picked up H Company there, and reached Bloemfontein on the 17th, Pretoria on the 21st, and Belfast on the 25th, on which date Major Douglas arrived at Belfast with B, C, E, and L Companies, and assumed command of the battalion, strength 1,200, and including its Mounted Infantry, 1,587; it was now with the main army under Lord Roberts.

Action at Bergendal.

27th August — The artillery on both sides commenced at an early hour, chiefly confined to guns of large calibre, with ranges of seven to 10,000 yards. The battalion was disposed along a ridge south of the Railway Station, about the centre of the position. Buller's force fell on the Boer left and took Bergendal by assault.

The feature was the concentration of artillery fire on Bergendal, a low lying, rocky, kopje, which was held most gallantly by the Zarps.

30th August — The battalion was appointed to General Ian Hamilton's Force, in Smith Dorrien's Brigade, the other infantry battalions being the Royal Irish, and 1st Gordon Highlanders. General

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Boer Prisoners who surrendered to "R.S." at Wepener, 6th May, 1900. *Plate V. (see page 21).*

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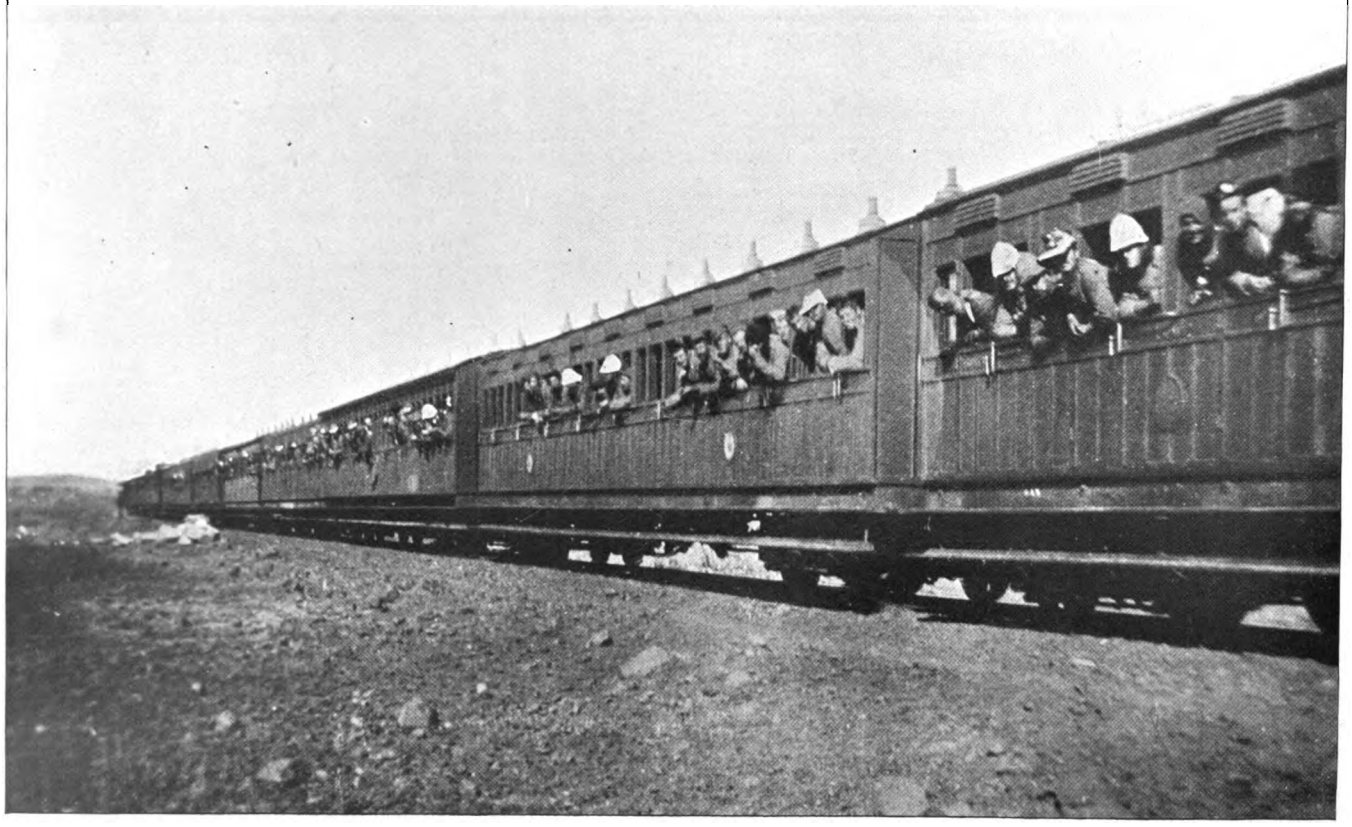

"To the Front." The first 500 Royal Scots leaving Bloemfontein for Pretoria, 8th August, 1900. Plate VI. (see page 22).

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1900.

Ian Hamilton inspected the battalion on the 31st of August, 31st August
and General Smith Dorrien on the 1st of September, both 1st September
expressed great satisfaction on the smart and fine appearance of the men.

The force left Belfast to go to the assistance of Buller's 3rd September
army, whose passage to Lydenberg had been barred by the Boers at Witclip. Ian Hamilton's task was to advance by Dullstroom and Zwaggershoek and turn the Boer right. The march was one of great difficulty, the road ran along a deep valley bounded on either side by lofty, rocky heights.

Affair at Zwartskoppies.

On the 3rd, the battalion formed the advanced guard, together with about twenty men of the City Imperial Volunteers, and a Battery of R.F.A. The proximity of the enemy in strength, and with guns, was not realised. On approaching Zwartskoppies, the Mounted Scouts came into contact with Boers, who did not disclose their strength until the main body of the advanced guard was within 5,000 yards of this position, when they opened fire with their "Long Tom." The companies were at once extended to the left, and then moved to the left behind the slopes of a spur. "A" and "B" Companies formed the firing line, and took up a fire position. "E" Company moved to the left to seize a kopje, enfilading our line of attack, whilst "G" Company, with another company in support, advanced to attack the enemy's right; covered by the guns they moved steadily forward, and drove the enemy from his position. The force went into bivouac on the ground won. There were no casualties; one shell knocked over the big drum and the men carrying it.

The advance was again opposed, but pushing on, the force 4th September
followed the Boers rapidly to Dullstroom, and, by its rapid advance, prevented their taking up their prepared position above Dullstroom. It pushed on to Palmietfontein, where late at night it went into bivouac.

Marched at 6.30 a.m., reaching Klein Zuikerbosch Kop 5th September
(Wolmahoek) at 3 p.m. Plate VII., page 29

Seizure of Zwaggershoek.

At 7 p.m. same day, Major Douglas, with A, C, E, G, and H Companies (500), advanced with orders to seize a lofty height at the exit of the Zwaggershoek Pass, the foot of this mountain was about six miles from the bivouac. The pass

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1900.
5th September resembles the Khyber, the heights on either side being lofty and precipitous. Captain Daniel led the advance, a few men along the road in front, a distance of 100 yards, the remainder of the battalion in file ready to fire on either flank. The men moved in absolute silence; two farms were rounded up and searched. On reaching the foot of Zwaggershoek, Major Douglas detached one section, under Captain Annand, to hold a kopjé on the right rear, as a security against a counter attack from that flank, or as a rallying or covering point. It was now very dark, as indeed it had been throughout the march, and a mist was falling. "A" Company was sent to the left, "C" Company to the right, the remainder formed the centre with one company in reserve, and, in this enveloping formation, extended to one pace, the half-battalion pressed up the steep, rocky mountain. The ascent was very trying, and necessitated frequent halts and the greatest care to keep touch. It is impossible to say whether the enemy were holding the position in force or not, the fog was so dense, and the night so dark, that seeing was difficult. On the left a picquet of seven Boers was seen, and these fled.

At midnight the half-battalion reached the summit, and was now in rear of the Boer right at Witclip, and commanded the exit of the pass. The men, whose conduct during the operation had been most praiseworthy, were rewarded by the thought that the Royal Scots were now the most advanced unit of the British Army. On the 6th the remainder of the battalion
6th September formed the infantry of the advanced guard of Hamilton's force during its passage through the pass. During the march picquets had to be constantly found by the advanced guard to hold hill tops and bluffs on the left flank; one of these, found by "L" Company, the Volunteer Service Company, under Sergeant Bruce (six rifles), was attacked by superior numbers; the picquet held their ground until the Boers fired the long dry grass, the flames blown by the wind on the picquet forced the men to quit their position; they ran to a bare, stony patch, and directly the flames had passed it, they rushed back to their original position, reached it before the enemy, and held on to it until reinforced. In the meantime, Major Douglas and his 500 men pushed from hill-top to hill-top on the right of the pass, up to its very exit, and rejoined the force at the bivouac at Reitfontein at about 5 p.m., the detachment having been constantly climbing steep, rocky peaks since early morning, an ardous task after the severe marching, both by day

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The bivouac at Wolmahoek the afternoon of the night on which the battalion seized Zwaggershoek, 5th September, 1900.
Plate VII. (see page 27).

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The battalion crossing the river, near Lydenburg, at dawn, to attack Paardeplatz, 8th September, 1900. *Plate VIII.* *(see page 33).*

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1900.

and night, of the previous day. Both General Ian Hamilton and Smith Dorrien expressed their admiration of the men's behaviour. 6th September

The seizure of Zwaggershoek by the half-battalion caused the enemy to retire on Lydenberg, which was reached on 7th of September, at 11 a.m. As soon as the force reached its bivouac, the enemy opened fire from Paardeplatz, a strong position on the Drakensberg, east of Lydenburg. The range was about 9,000 yards, the first shell fell amongst the men bathing in the stream, and three of the Royal Irish were killed. 7th September

At 3 a.m. on the 8th orders were received from Buller for the force to assemble on the left bank of the stream at 6.30 a.m., to attack the Boers in their entrenched position. 8th September

Battle of Paardeplatz.

This proved to be the last stand of Botha's main army. Hamilton's force on the right, Buller's army on the left and in reserve, Smith Dorrien disposed his Brigade as follows:— First line, Royal Scots (right), Royal Irish (left). Second line, Gordon Highlanders. Plate VIII., page 31

The battalion extended (less "B" company detached as escort to 5-in. gun) at a distance of 6,500 yards from the enemy's position. Most of the enemy's shells burst on impact, and did no harm. Each company in column of sections extended to about ten paces, six companies formed firing line and supports, two companies reserve; thus, at the start, there were twelve lines at distances of 200 to 400 yards; these were reduced to eight lines, on the two reserve companies being sent to prolong the right. The country was much broken, the surface covered with large stones and rocks, and at times the slopes were very steep. At 1,600 yards from the enemy's sangars the battalion came to a ravine 1,000 feet deep, 400 yards wide, the bottom was thickly wooded, and along its centre ran a swift river, fordable only in places, the side nearest our approach was a sheer precipice, except for two narrow gullies. Each Captain led his company down these and across the ravine; their original position became much altered, and many men became detached; these were collected by Major Bodé and Captain Moir (Adjt.) and formed by them into a party. The rapidity with which the battalion crossed this formidable obstacle drew the following remark from Sir Redvers Buller to General Smith-Dorrien:— Plate IX, page 35

"By Jove! those Royal Scots are devils to go."

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1900.
8th September

On reaching the top of the further side of the ravine, the battalion was about 1,200 yards from the enemy's sangars. The interval was flat, open, without any cover whatever. The companies opened a heavy fire, and, noticing that the artillery had the range and were enfilading the enemy's trenches, they commenced to advance across the open. The left found a little cover near a small house, and pushed on rapidly, reached dead ground close to the Boer sangars, and charged; the Boers fled. The right in the meantime constantly pushed forward to envelop, and the whole of the enemy's line gave way. The battalion was re-organised quickly, and followed in pursuit, but a dense fog fell on the mountain, and the advance had to be stopped. The features of the action were the rapid advance of the Royal Scots, and the support afforded the infantry by the artillery. It was undoubtedly owing to this that the battalion, in its advance across the last 1,200 yards, escaped casualties. The Boers must have fired at random, fearing the enfilading shells. Sir Redvers Buller, in orders that night, especially mentioned the battalion for its conduct in the action. The following officers were mentioned in despatches: Major W. Douglas, Major Bodé, Captain and Adjutant A. J. G. Moir.

10th September

The Natal Army remained in the Lydenburg District, and Hamilton's force marched at 6 a.m., 10th September, and marched south, reaching Helvetia without opposition.

13th September
Plate X., page 37

On the 13th, it moved off again to join the advance of the main army on Komatipoort, and on that date descended into the Elandspruit Valley to Watervalonder, a drop of some 3,000 feet from Helvetia, along a narrow, winding, rough road with steep gradients, each wagon having to be manned to prevent its rolling over and down the face of the mountain. Moving on again, the battalion left, temporarily, 150 men to hold Nooitgedacht; it reached Godwaan on 15th September.

Plate XI., page 41

15th September

The force was now on reduced rations except in meat, the quantity of which was increased.

16th September
Plate XII., page 43

The ascent of Kaapschehoop, or Devil's Kantoor, the summit of which was 7,000 feet altitude, was completed; it entailed immense labour on the men, each of whom carried two blankets to lighten the wagons, which moreover had to be man-hauled up the several steep pitches.

17th September
Plate XIII., page 47

The march was continued down the northern slopes of the Kaapschehoop, and passing through the De Kaap Valley along a track which had not been used for thirteen years. The bush was often dense, and the Royal Engineers were

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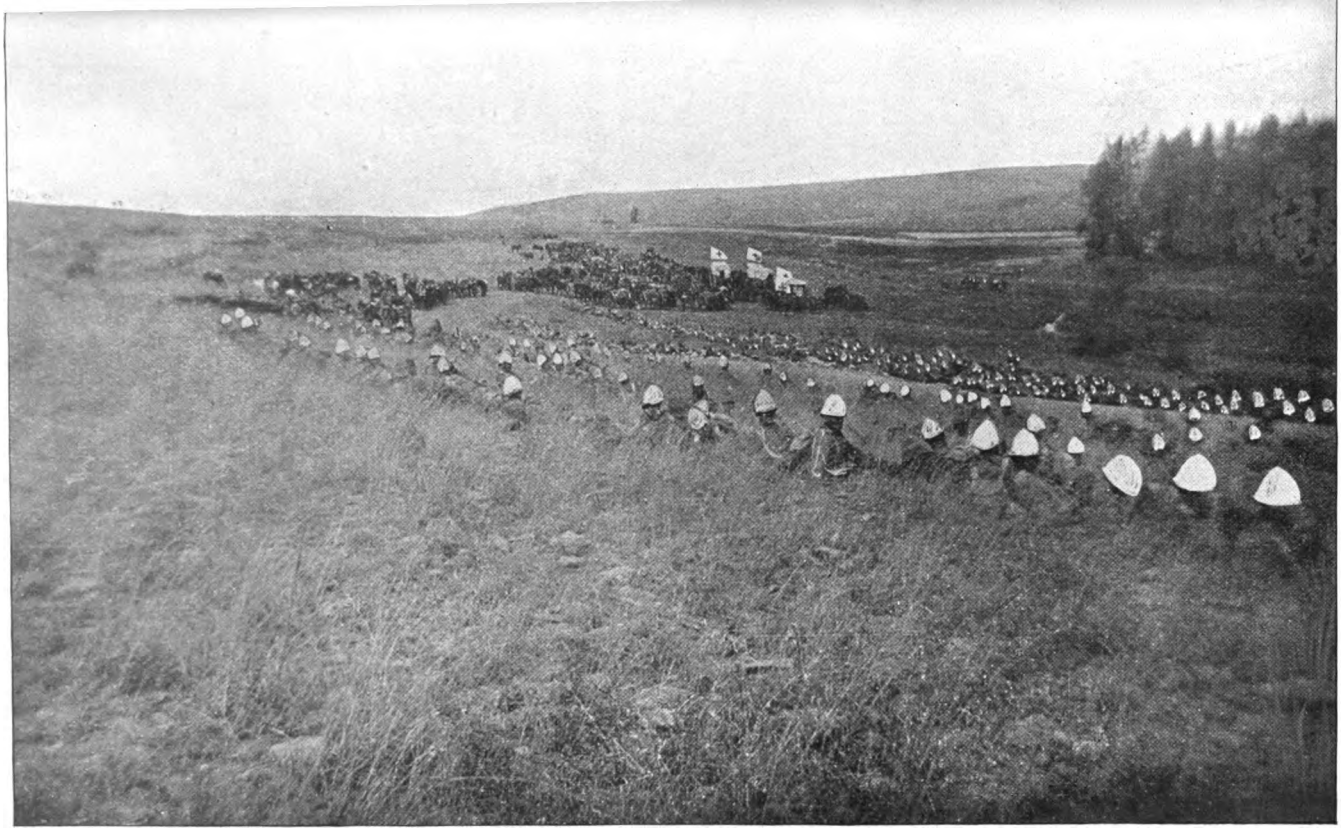

Battle of Paardeplatz. The battalion under shell fire, and awaiting the order to advance, 8th September, 1900.
Plate IX. *(see page 33).*

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Advance on Komatipoort. A halt on the banks of the Elandspruit, 14th September, 1900. **Plate X.** (*see page 34*).

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1900.

busy behind the mounted screen clearing and making a way. The force moved through Joubertsdal, Murray's Farm, North Kaap Station, Honeybird Creek, reaching Kaapmuiden (when a large supply of flour was captured) on 23rd of September. "H" Company was left there as a garrison. — 17th September — Plate XVI., page 55 — Plate XIV., page 49 — 23rd September — Plate XV., page 53

Hectorspruit was reached, and twenty of the enemy's guns were discovered destroyed in the Crocodile River. — Plate XVII., page 59 — 24th September

An arduous, waterless march of twenty miles to Komatipoort was completed; it was intensely hot. The enemy, after blowing up "Long Tom," and destroying some hundreds of rifles, abandoned all his supplies and ammunition, and fled into Portuguese territory. — 25th September

The force, together with General Pole-Carew's, was reviewed by the Portuguese Commander-in-Chief in honour of the King of Portugal's birthday. — 28th September

The march from Helvetia to Komatipoort was very arduous; the heat was great; the road bad, and often non-existant; the hills so lofty and close on either side that the advanced guard was replaced by picqueting the hills as the Force moved through the defile; the rations were scanty, but the indomitable spirit of all ranks made light of their difficulties.

General Ian Hamilton issued the following orders on the 1st October, 1900:— — 1st October

"Before leaving Komatipoort for the Rustenburg District,
"General Ian Hamilton wishes to congratulate his force
"on the fine work which has been performed by them
"since they marched out of Belfast on the 3rd of
"September, 1900. During this period, they have
"driven the enemy out of his most formidable selected
"positions—first, on the main Lydenburg Road, where
"they had barred the progress of the Natal Army; and
"secondly, on the heights overlooking Lydenburg itself.
"They have also encountered and overcome every sort
"of natural obstacle, and have carried the British flag
"through tracts of waterless bush, and over ranges of
"lofty mountains to the most remote frontier of the
"enemy. All this has been done with so much spirit
"and so cheerfully, as to excite the General Officer
"Commanding's greatest admiration, who will take the
"first opportunity of informing Lord Roberts of the
"splendid work done by all ranks under his command."

The battalion received orders to hold Komatipoort and Hectorspruit. — 7th October

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1900.

7th October — The 1st Volunteer Service Company left for home, but, like the Brigade of Guards, was detained on the line of communication in Orange River Colony for some months.

10th October — On the 10th, Lieut.-Colonel Douglas took over the Commandantship (Lieut. Price as Staff Officer), from General

11th October — Smith-Dorrien, who issued the following order on the 11th: –

> "The Major-General regrets that, for the present at any "rate, he is to lose the services of the 1st Royal Scots, "as he has been ordered to organise a fresh Brigade "for operations near Belfast. He cannot wish Major "Douglas and the Royal Scots good-bye without "thanking them for the splendid work they have done "for him during the too short time he has had the "honour of having them in his Brigade."

30th October — A draft joined from home.

22nd November — The battalion remained in occupation of Komatipoort,

Plate XVIII., page 61 — Hectorspruit, and Kaapmuiden, until 22nd of November, 1900, when a change of quarters commenced to Barberton, and was completed, with one company at Avoca, and one at

26th November — Kaapschehoop, by the 26th.

1901.

14th January — The battalion had now marched since 9th February, 1900, 2,396 miles. It remained at Barberton until 14th January, 1901. Many officers and men had suffered there and at Komatipoort from malaria, where it existed in a severe form.

18th January — By the 18th of January the battalion was disposed as follows:—

Plate XIX., page 65 — Headquarters and "C" and "E" Companies at Godwaan; "A" and "G" at Elandshoek; "D" and "H" at Nooitgedacht; "B" and "F" at Kaapschehoop, guarding an important

7th April — section of railway, and remained at these places until 7th of April, 1901. It is worthy of record that during that period, and subsequently, the Boers never succeeded in destroying the railway on any portion guarded by the battalion.

8th & 9th April — Orders were received to concentrate the battalion at Machadodorp; the Welsh Regiment relieved it, and the concentration, which commenced on 8th April, was completed early on the 9th. Lieut.-Colonel Douglas was appointed to command a mobile column composed of two squadrons and a Colt gun, 19th Hussars, one Squadron 18th Hussars, one Section 42nd Battery, R.F.A., one pom pom, 1st Battalion the Royal Scots, and one hundred men West Yorkshire Regiment, Field Hospital and Supply Column.

10th April — The column moved off early on the 10th, marched by

12th April — Helvetia to Witclip, where it arrived on the 12th.

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Our Transport crossing the Elandspruit at Watervalonder, 13th September, 1900. **Plate XI.** (*see page 34*).

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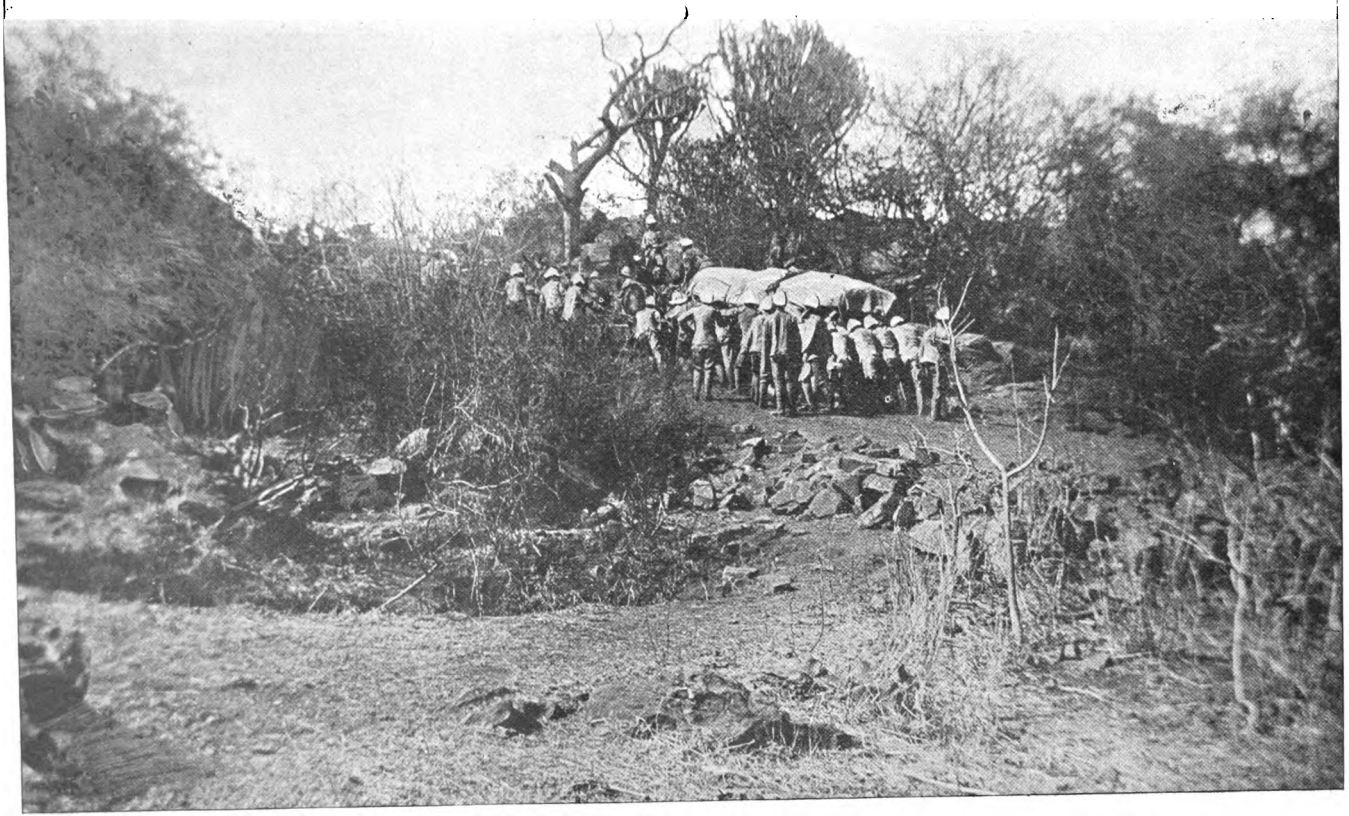

Hauling the wagons up the Kaapsckehoop at 3 a.m. on the 16th September, 1900. Plate XII. (see page 34).

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1901.
13th April
Plate XXI., page 71

Major Twyford, who was on his way to join the battalion escorted by seven cavalry men, was attacked in the Badfontein Valley by Jan de Beer's Commando; after a gallant fight from a ruined farm house, during which he refused to surrender, he was killed.

Second Seizure of Zwaggershoek.

14th April

"H" Company, under Lieut. Price, marched at 12.30 a.m. (by night), surprised and seized Zwaggershoek at the entrance of the formidable pass leading to Dullstroom; he was supported by the three squadrons of Hussars, which followed at a trot at 3.15 a.m., timed to reach Zwaggershoek at the moment that Lieut. Price's company was ascending the heights, the remainder of the column followed at 3.30 a.m., and the whole, pushing on rapidly through the pass (dislodging with two companies of the battalion, the enemy holding the heights on the right flank), surprised the enemy's advanced posts and seized Klein Zuikerboschkop, a formidable position barring our line of advance, before the enemy could concentrate there.

15th April

The advance was continued, constantly opposed, and the column reached Palmeitfontein.

The Boers were now all round the column, and evidently in some force; the battalion furnished the outposts.

Action near Dullstroom.

16th April

A dense mist delayed the column moving off on the 16th until 8.30 a.m. The Hussars covered the front and flanks, and a small portion the rear. The battalion found two companies for advanced and one company (G) with the rear guard, with which was also the pom pom. The Boers attacked on all sides, strong in front and on our right, and 400, personally led by General Muller (Ben Viljoen's "fighting" General), strove to cut off the rear guard. "G" Company, supported by the pom pom, withstood this attempt in splendid style, driving back the Boers, and General Muller, as he subsequently informed Colonel Douglas, was, for the first and only time during the war, wounded through the shoulder. The 18th Hussars were checked at a ridge on our right front; A & C Companies, with the machine gun, were ordered forward, attacked and seized the ridge. The transport meanwhile was moved on by stages, parking from time to time whilst the

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1901.
16th April enemy was being pushed back. Another ridge further to the right front was tenaciously held by the enemy, and four companies of the battalion were ordered to attack it. The frontage for these companies was much curtailed by a bog, but covered by the guns, and advancing in several lines, they captured the ridge without loss. Half "F" Company advanced on Dullstroom, captured and held Groot Zuikerboschkop. The enemy thereon gave way all round, and retired at 4 p.m. There were no casualities in the battalion, but there were six in the 18th Hussars. General Muller subsequently said that he had with him 900 men and one long range 9lb Krupp gun of Ben Viljoen's Commando, besides 100 of Piet Taute's men. Pulteney's column, which should have been up to co-operate with Douglas on the 16th of April, had been delayed by the
17th April Boers destroying the line, and arrived on the 17th. The 19th Hussars had an out-post affair on this date.

18th April A and B Companies were sent to hold Zwartskoppies, whilst G and H accompanied a convoy, as escort, to Belfast.

19th April On the 19th Douglas' column demonstrated to the N.W. to cover Pulteney's move west. A spy reported Piet Taute's Commando by Karee Kraal, east of Dullstroom; by demonstrating to the north and west, Douglas avoided disturbing them until reinforcements reached him, by the addition of Benson's column, which was placed under his orders on the
28th & 29th April 28th. A, B, G, and H Companies joined again on the 29th.

Action at Goedehoop.

30th April "E" Company and 50 West Yorks were left to hold the camp, A, C, D, and F Companies were attached to Benson's column, Douglas taking one battalion of Mounted Infantry from Benson.

Benson was directed to move on the enemy's left, whilst Douglas approached his front and right. The Boers were found in a perfect maze of precipices and deep krantzes covered with bush, they were very tenacious, and many fell. Their laager was captured, and five prisoners, nine rifles, 500 rounds S.A.A., 18 wagons, 553 cattle, 2,432 sheep, and 75 horses. Our casualties were four officers wounded, one man killed, three wounded. Colonel Benson, in reporting on his Section of the action, remarked:—"The Royal Scots were out from 18 to 20 hours, and some of them must have marched 23 miles, including much stiff climbing. I admired their spir very much." He also specially mentioned Lieut. Croker.

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The battalion preparing to cook dinners in bivouac after descending Kaapschehoop, 17th September, 1900. *Plate XIII.* (*see page 34*).

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Sergt.-Major Lorentz, watching the wagons. *Plate XIV.* (*see page 39*).

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1901.

Information having been received that the enemy had returned to the same position, on the 2nd of May the two columns again moved from Dullstroom to attack him. The Boers made no stand, and the force returned with two prisoners, 14 rifles, 47 wagons, 200 cattle, 5,068 sheep, 64 horses, besides bales of blankets, clothing, &c.; our loss was one killed, three wounded, The columns bivouacked that night by moonlight between Goedehoop and Dullstroom, and returned to Dullstroom on the 3rd, and thence to Belfast to refit, arriving there on the 6th of May.

30th April

2nd May

3rd May

6th May

By the 12th of May Douglas' column was re-organised, the 3rd Mounted Infantry having joined to replace the 18th and 19th Hussars, and two Sections of 84th Battery R.F.A. to replace the Section 42nd Battery; half-battalion of 3rd King's Royal Rifles to replace West Yorks; a detachment Field Company R.E. and a Telegraph Section were added. Lieut. Price of the battalion was appointed Staff Officer, Lieut. Budge Transport Officer, and 2nd Lieut. Johnston Galloper.

12th May

On this date the column moved off, and reached Machadodorp on the 13th.

13th May

On the 15th it moved south, and made for Dwaalheuval, a lofty entrenched position, from which the enemy retired; the column bivouacked there, and was joined that night by half-battalion King's Royal Rifles.

15th May

Action at Bermondsey.

At 7 a.m. the column moved and marched on Uitkomst, covered by mounted infantry; the left of this screen was attacked by 100 Boers, and two companies of the battalion were sent to their support. The King's Royal Rifles and pom pom were left to escort the transport, whilst the remainder of the column pushed on as rapidly as possible. It found Uitkomst evacuated; forty Boers now opened fire on our right. In front was Bermondsey, and suspecting the enemy to be in position there, after leaving two guns and 200 Royal Scots on Uitkomst, with orders to send on all available infantry as it came up, Douglas pushed on with one-and-half Companies M.I., two guns, five-and-half Companies Royal Scots. One Company M.I. was sent to cover the right flank, half a company covered the front. The Bermondsey position consisted of a hill, the top of which was covered with large rocks; the enemy's left rested on a precipice; immediately in front of his position was a deep gully, in front of which a line of rocks jutted out at

16th May

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1901.
16th May

right angles to the enemy's front. In these advanced rocks, which lay on the right of the column's line of advance, Boers were concealed, and they did not disclose themselves until the M.I. Scouts were within a few yards of them, when they opened a hot fire from their main and advanced position; the two companies of the battalion forming an advanced guard pushed on.

The field guns came into action at 1,600 yards, whilst the machine gun of the battalion was brought to a position where it could enfilate the line of advanced rocks; it was chiefly due to the machine gun that the enemy left his advanced position. The two companies established themselves in a good fire position, with the gully between them and the enemy, whose position was 1,400 yards from them. Douglas then sent 2nd Lieut. Dalmahoy with "E" Company to turn the Boer right. In spite of the difficult ground, he effected this in a very able, gallant way, and the Boers hastily retired. Lieut. Dalmahoy, who had been joined by Captain and Adjutant Moir, on his own initiative pushed on after the retreating Boers, and the whole column, which had now been reinforced by the pom pom, and a half-battalion of the King's Royal Rifles, pressed forward. The men of "E" Company displayed great gallantry by the cool way in which they advanced through the rocks under a brisk fire. They followed along a narrow ridge, which led to another kopje, Boschoek, the two being connected by a Nek. The ground on this Nek was flat and quite open, either side was precipitous. The firing line lay down in the open just short of the Nek and about 420 yards from the enemy. They had two entrenching "implements" amongst them, and, by passing these to each other, each man managed to scrape a small mound in front of him. The pom pom came into action at 1,600 yards, the field-guns at 2,000 yards, and the Boers retired into the Komati Valley. Captain Moir was wounded in four places, 2nd Lieut. Dalmahoy in two, Private Sheddon was killed, and Private McMillan was wounded. Lieut. Price, Lance-Corporals McGill, McMillan and Fox, and Private Adams showed conspicuous courage, and risked their lives to save others. Corporal Paul, who, after the officers were wounded, showed coolness and judgment in command of the firing line, was promoted sergeant by Lord Kitchener. Lieut. Price was recommended for the "Victoria Cross," the other two officers and the lance-corporals were mentioned in

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With the main advance on Komatipoort. The battalion crossing Joe's Luck Railway Bridge on 23rd September, 1900.
Plate XV. (*see page 39*).

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Advance on Komatipoort. Louw's Creek, showing the bush veldt we had to push through, 21st September, 1900, Plate XVI, *(see page 39),*

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despatches. Amongst the Boer losses were a Field Cornet and two Foremen killed. Our total casualties were one private killed, two officers and six men wounded. Colonel Douglas received the following telegram from Sir Bindon Blood's Chief Staff Officer: "The Major-General congratulates you on your success." The battalion accompanied the column in its daily operations about Bloemfontein Ridge and Goedegelegen, when the enemy was constantly met, and small skirmishes ensued. 1901. 16th May

On 22nd of May the column moved to Driehoek, which is 7,000 feet altitude, and operated daily for many miles round the mountains, clearing the country. 22nd May

The 2nd of June was abnormally cold, the tea froze in the cups at breakfast, twenty-six oxen were frozen to death, and two men on picquet were picked up unconscious. On that date the column moved back to Uitkomst, and operated thence till 4th of June. 2nd June 4th June

Returned to Machadodorp, having captured four Boers, 15 rifles, 470 rounds S.A.A., three bags dynamite, 62 horses, 709 cattle, 6,645 sheep, 72 wagons, besides blowing up a cartridge manufactory. The column refitted at Machadodorp. It now consisted of:— 5th June

Two Sections 84th Battery R.F.A.
One pom pom (L Section).
Detachment Field Company R.E.
3rd Battalion Mounted Infantry.
1st Battalion the Royal Scots.
Ammunition Column.
Field Hospital and Supply Column A.S.C.

Nine days' forage and rations were taken, necessitating much transport. Forty pack mules were issued, as the column was now to operate in the fastnesses of the Drakensberg.

Leaving Machadodorp, the column reached Schuman's Kloof on the 10th June, with orders from Brigadier-General Spens, who was in supreme command of four columns—Benson's, Douglas', Park's, and Burney's—to move on the Houtboschloop. The track from Schuman's Kloof was intended for a single wagon, lightly loaded, in very dry weather. The numerous bogs along it at the present time caused great labour with the heavily-loaded wagons, and much delay ensued. The column descended the steep mountain side from Schuman's in four hours, and then moved along a deep, narrow valley, with precipitous rugged heights on either side. Reaching the exit of the valley at a narrow, dangerous pass 10th June

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1901.
10th June in the evening, the mounted infantry screen came into contact with the enemy, who were entrenched in a formidable position on Somerset Ridge, and lost a few horses. It was too late to attack, but the 3rd M.I., supported by two field-guns and two companies of the battalion, reconnoitred their position; fires were lighted beyond the exit of the pass to delude the enemy, whilst the column really bivouacked behind a ridge within the pass.

Affair at Somerset Ridge.

12th June Early on the 12th of June the column moved to attack —3rd M.I. to turn the enemy's right, two companies of the battalion, supported by the four guns, against the centre, the remainder of the battalion divided between reserve and rear guard. It was found that the main body of Boers had withdrawn, leaving their rear guard to cover their retreat. This was quickly pushed back with loss. Huts for 500 men were found and destroyed, and the column pushed on through a densely-wooded pass, very narrow, sides quite precipitous, the road an unmade track, which was covered with boulders. The enemy was hard pressed, and abandoned 13 wagons, 20 head of cattle, 50 sheep, 13 rifles, 10 saddles, 2 horses, &c. That night the column bivouacked in this formidable pass, the mules proving very useful in getting the blankets and great coats to the picquets on the hilltops, though some never reached.

13th June Starting at 6 a.m., the column forded the Crocodile River, a rushing stream, three-and-a-half feet deep, and twenty yards wide; three-and-a-half companies of the battalion, with one gun and a few M.I., were left as baggage guard, remainder pushed on rapidly, the 3rd M.I. having already been sent over a mountain which lay on the left of the line of advance. The enemy was driven from two positions with a loss to us of two men. The site of the bivouac was selected at the junction of three roads at Waterval, overlooking the Houtboschloop. To get to this a steep hill had to be ascended, and all the men of the battalion who could be spared from guarding the right flank were disposed along this to haul up the wagons. This laborious task took a long time, and the battalion did not
14th June reach the bivouac until 3 a.m. on the 14th, but the men's spirit were so fine that, in spite of no food and much labour, and a march that had lasted 21 hours continuously, they

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The "Long Tom" captured at Komatipoort after it was blown up by the Boers, 25th September, 1900. *Plate XVII.* (*see page 39*).

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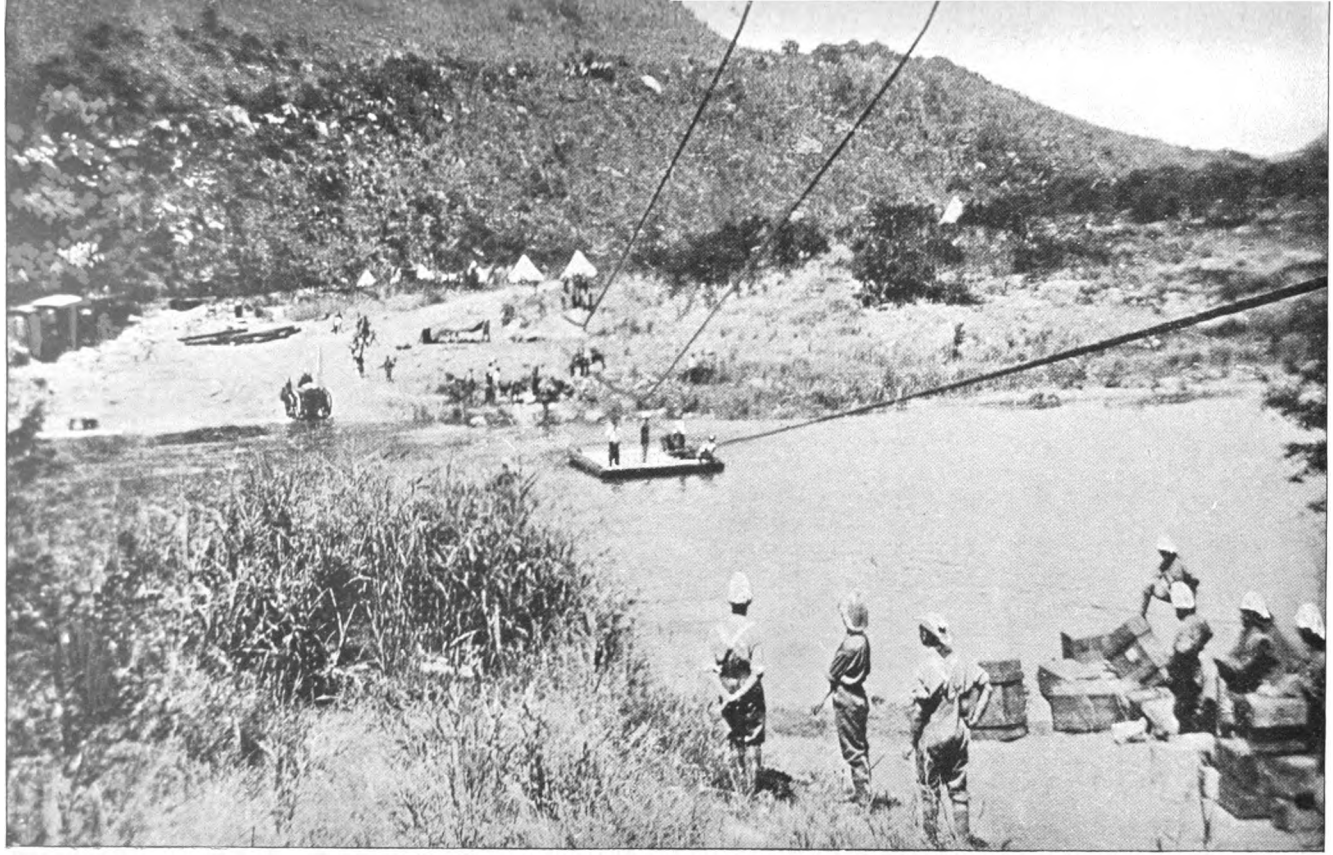

Crossing the Kaap Kiver at Avoca, November, 1900. *Plate XVIII.* (*see page 40*).

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1901.

were cracking jokes. The battalion was engaged daily in clearing the country and co-operating with the other columns. 14th June

Rations, except for meat, were reduced, but were increased again after a few days, on receiving supplies from Witclip. 17th June Plate XX., page 67

Attack on Koedoeshoek.

Benson, who had been sent *viâ* Witclip to the south side of Koedoeshoek, operated on that side, but the precipices tied him to two paths. The 3rd M.I. were sent to envelop the Boer right, two companies of the battalion with two guns remained in position on the left bank of the Crocodile to cover the advance, whilst four companies crossed the river and worked up the Spur called Geluk to envelop the enemy's left. But it was not practicable to find the individual Boers in the dense bush. They had scattered, and the majority had made off by the south before Benson's arrival, and, except for six Boers surprised in a sangar, but few captures were made, though 1,700 head of cattle, driven to the south side, were captured by Benson. 25th June

The column started for Machadodorp *viâ* Witclip on the 27th, and arrived on 1st July. The total captures were 14 prisoners, 38 rifles, 1,785 rounds S.A.A., 667 head of cattle, 2,990 sheep, 8 horses, 72 wagons, and 17 saddles. The following telegram was received from Brigadier-General Spens:—"Middleburg, June 28th, Brigadier-General wishes to "express to Colonel Douglas, Officers, Non-Commissioned "Officers and men of Douglas' column, his high appreciation "of the good spirit and energy shewn by all ranks during the "recent operations. These have been carried out in a most "difficult country, and almost impassable roads, and have only "been brought to a successful issue by the high military "qualities of the troops engaged." 27th June 1st July

During these three months with Douglas' column, the battalion marched 557 miles.

The battalion moved to Middleburg and was garrisoned there until the 4th of October, 1901, when it was deputed to hold the line from Wilge River to Witbank, head-quarters at Balmoral. 3rd July 4th October

Lieut.-Colonel Douglas was selected to command another mobile column, composed as follows:— 3rd November

18th Battalion Mounted Infantry.
19th " " "
One Section 15th Battery R.F.A.
Half Battalion The Royal Scots.
Ammunition and Supply Columns.
Field Hospital.

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1901.
3rd November — A, B, C, and D Companies, under Major Wemyss, joined the column; Lieut. Bourne was appointed Staff Officer, 2nd Lieut. Reid Galloper, and 2nd Lieut. Johnston Transport Officer.

On the 3rd, a demonstration was made North of Balmoral to assist Fortescue's advance further west. On the 4th, the column marched by Kromdraai to Grootvlei, which it reached on the 5th; on the 6th, a reconnaissance was made towards Rhenoster Kop, a Boer picquet discovered, and one man with his horse and arms captured.

7th November — The column returned to Balmoral; on the following day the command of the column was handed to Lieut.-Colonel Urmston, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, *vice* Lieut.-Colonel Douglas to hospital.

It was moved to Middelburg, where it remained till the
13th December — 13th December, when it marched *viâ* Pan and Belfast, and
21st December — reached Dulstroom on the 21st of December, where Park's column was also.

Action at Windhoek.

22nd December — The combined columns attacked the Boers at Windhoek, killing two and wounding eight, and destroying their laager.

26th December — On the 26th of December the column returned to Middleburg, and operated about the line, and covered the erection of block-houses from Wonderfontein to Carolina.

1902.
4th January — Brevet Lieut.-Colonel Murray took over the command of the battalion from Major Wemyss.

8th January — The column reached Belfast on the 8th January, and on
15th January — the 15th A and D Companies, with the machine gun, under Major Wemyss, marched thirty miles by night with Park's column, and had a skirmish in the Steilpoort Valley. They rejoined the battalion head-quarters at Zwartskoppies on
16th January — 16th, and the whole marched with Park's column to Dullstroom
17th January — on 17th.

Affair at Paardeplatz.

21st January — On the 21st January the two columns met the enemy, and drove him to Windhoek, and started to return to Paardeplatz. The Boers, thinking that the rear guard only halted at Paardeplatz, followed up; the whole of the two columns deployed, and met him there with a heavy fire, causing many casualties. The column lost one officer; Lance-Corporal McGill again distinguished himself. The march was con-
29th January — tinued, and the columns reached Lydenburg on the 29th

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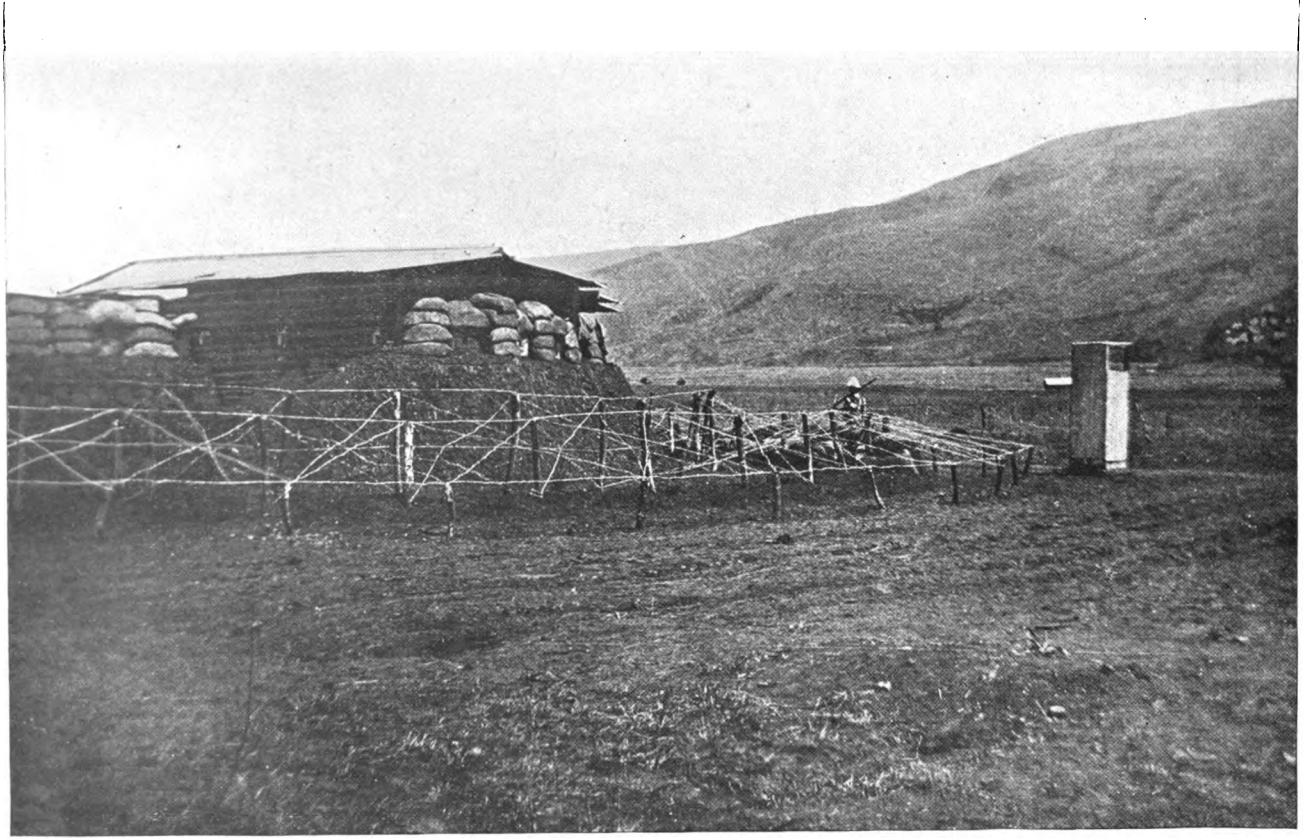

"Fort Lorentz." A blockhouse at Godwaan, built under the superintendence of Sergeant-Major Lorentz, February, 1901.
Plate XIX. (*see page 40*).

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Major Molyneux-Seel with some of the battalion, supporting the 3rd Battalion Mounted Infantry in the Crocodile Valley, near Houtboschloop, 17th June, 1901. Plate XX. (see page 63)

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1902.

January. They were in daily contact with the enemy during the march. There was heavy rain; the roads were very bad, and the work throughout was arduous. 29th January

Urmston's column commenced its return to Belfast, the battalion guarding the two prisoners Ben Viljoen and Bester, who had been captured near Lydenburg. 31st January

It reached Belfast. 4th February

Lieut.-Colonel Murray, with the battalion head-quarters, left A, C, D and M Companies under Major Wemyss, and returned to Balmoral, and moved to Witbank on 14th February. 11th February 14th February

"M" (Volunteer) Company was withdrawn from Urmston's column, and left for home on 24th. The battalion thus continued holding the line from Wilge River to Witbank, and had three companies with Urmston's column. 20th March 24th March

There was a splendid little fight at Balmoral, where Jack Hindon's Commando, 200 to 300 in strength, endeavoured to capture some cattle; this attempt was frustrated primarily by the gallant and intelligent conduct of three men, No. 8225, Dr. H. Robertson; 8255 Pte. J. Lockhart; and 8187 Pte. A. Blease; all of the Volunteer Service Company "Q," and, secondly, by the determined initiative of Nos. 7143 Pte. F. Colton; 6526 Pte. A. Hough; 7095 Pte. T. Williams. The first five were promoted corporals by Lord Kitchener for their gallantry. The G.O.C. Eastern Line telegraphed:—"Very "glad to hear you did so well, and that you beat the Boers off "so successfully." 5th April

The Commander-in-Chief (Lord Kitchener) wired to General Featherstonhaugh:—"I should like to promote the "three men Volunteer Company Royal Scots, who appear "to have acted so well at Balmoral; tell all concerned I con-"sider their action reflects great credit; send me their names." 6th April

Lieut.-Colonel Douglas rejoined from sick leave and resumed command of the battalion, which was disposed in the same way until peace was declared on the 31st May, 1902. 24th May 31st May

Throughout the time the battalion held a section of the line, the Boers never succeeded in destroying any part of it, their attempts to cross being invariably seen and frustrated. Plate I., *(Frontispiece).*

Summary of Events of the 1st Section of Mounted Infantry. 1st Section M.I

Commander—Lieutenant L. K. Smith.

Strength—32, subsequently increased by 60 men.

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1st Section M.I.

Embarked—9th October, 1899.

Landed at Capetown—19th November, 1899.

Joined General French's Force 1st to 31st January, 1900, in operations about Colesberg, including seizure of De Lisle's Kopje, and in the actions of the Scottish Company DeLisle's 2nd M.I.

With 2nd M.I. in General Kelly Kenny's Division, including the actions at Ramah, 10/2/00; Klip Drift, 16/2/00; present during the advance on Bloemfontein, including pursuit of Cronjé terminating in Paardeberg, 15th to 27th February, 1900; Poplar Grove, 8/3/00; Dreifontein, 10/3/00.

Took part in the operations about Bloemfontein, including Karee Kloof, Bushman's Kop, Sanna's Post, 15/3/00 to 23/4/00.

With General Ian Hamilton in the advance on Pretoria, during which it was 28 times in action, including:—

Leeufontein—24/3/00.
Thaba 'Nchu—27/4/00.
Hout Nek—30/4/00.
„ „ —1/5/00.
Wilkom—3/5/00.
Winburg—5/5/00.
Zand River—10/5/00.
Kroonstadt—13/5/00.
Lindley—17/5/00.
Johannesburg—29/5/00.

and in the advance along the eastern line, including Diamond Hill, 10/6/00, and in Ian Hamilton's operations in the Orange River Colony, including those against De Wet and Prinsloo on the Wittebergen.

Pursuit of De Wet, and at Vredefort, 24/7/00.

Present during the advance for the relief of Hore's force, and operations on the Magliesberg to 14/8/00.

Joined General Clement's Force, 4/9/00.

Present during the operations in the Western Transvaal, including the action in Hekpoort Valley, 4/9/00; Boschfontein, 10/9/00; Krugersdorp, 10/11/00; Sterkfontein, 23/11/00; Nooitgedacht, 13/12/00; Middlefontein, 23rd, 24th and 25th January, 1901; Modderfontein, 2/2/01, and many other engagements in the Losberg, Gatsrand and Magliesberg.

Number of miles marched, exclusive of operations, 8,452.

The company was particularly mentioned for conspicuous gallantry at Driefontein, 10/3/00; Vredefort, 24/7/00; Nooitgedacht, 13/12/00.

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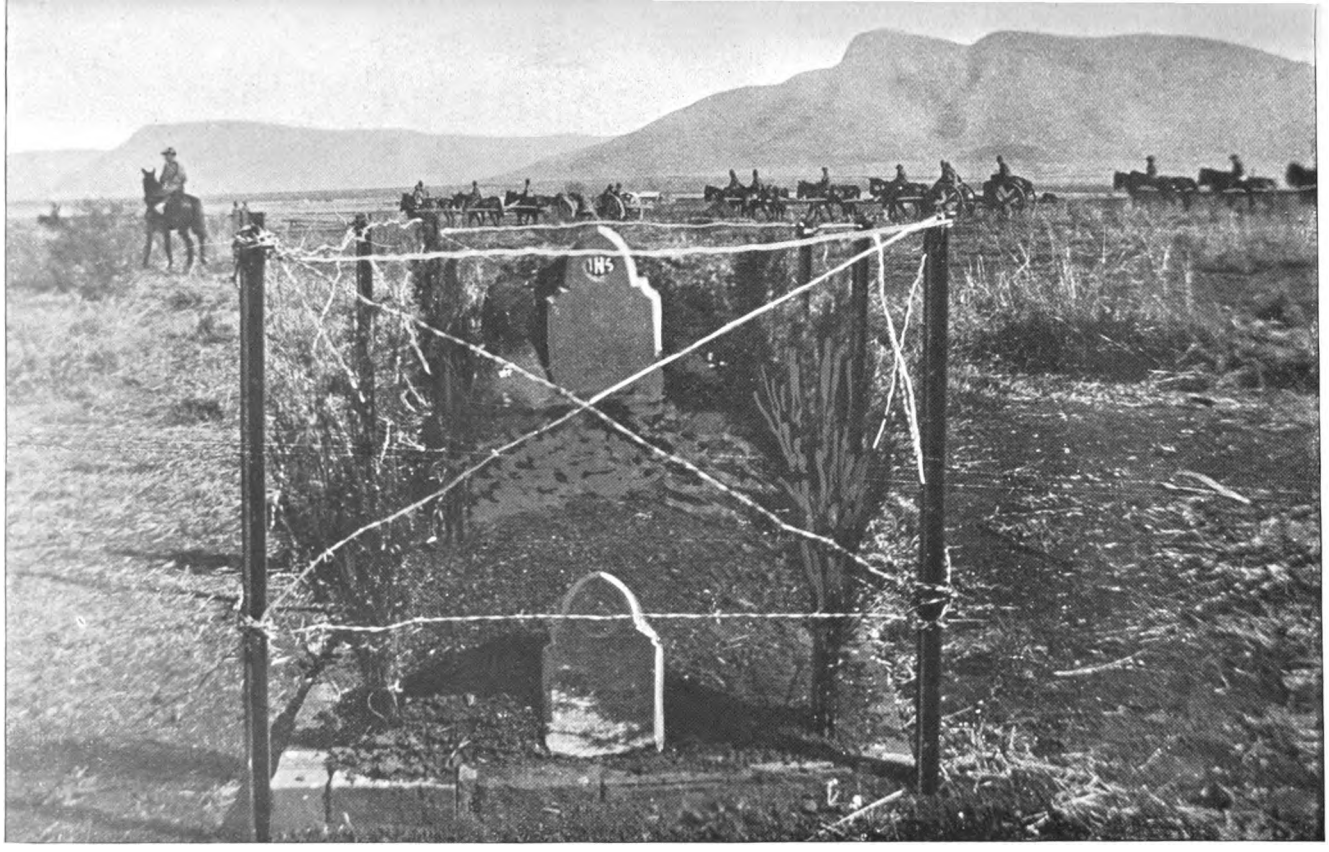

Major Twyford's first grave, close to where he was shot. (Douglas' Column on the March.) 18th April, 1901.
Plate XXI. *(see page 45).*

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Position occupied by the Mounted Company during siege, as seen from Wepener Bridge, Caledon River. *Plate XXII.* (*see page 75*).

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Lieut. L. K. Smith, No. 1,631 Colour-Sergt. A. Smith (since promoted Lieut. and Quarter-master), No. 5,464 Sergt. C. Ellis, exposed their lives to save others. The Officer Commanding the Scottish Company wrote in his report:— "Throughout the war the Royal Scots Section has invariably "behaved with great gallantry in action." 1st Section M.I.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS, 2ND COMPANY OF MOUNTED INFANTRY. 2nd Company, M.I

Commander—Captain E. Molyneux-Seel.
Strength—115.
Date formed—22nd January, 1900.

Acted as an independent company during General Gatacre's advance on Springfontein, and present in the action at Bethulie Bridge 11th to 14th March, 1900. Was with the column operating about Smithfield, and was the only unit of regulars present during the siege of Wepener, 6th to 26th April, 1900, in which it took a prominent part, suffered great privation, and acted with great courage and coolness. After refitting at Bloemfontein, it operated on the line of communication about Brandford and Vet River until 28th May, 1900, when it joined 12th Brigade, under General Clements, and accompanied it in the operations in the Northern Orange River Colony, including Reitspruit, 23/6/00, and the following actions, which terminated in the surrender of General Prinsloo and 4,000 Boers on 30/7/00:— Plate XXII., page 73

Zand River—28/6/00.
Kaffir Kop—3/7/00.
„ „ —4/7/00.
Bethlehem—6 & 7/7/00.
Slabbart's Nek—24/7/00.
Slaap Krantz—28/7/00.

Joined General Rundle's force, and in the operations in N.E. Orange River Colony, including Bronkhorstfontein, 17/9/00, Tafel Kop, 3/10/00. On 22nd May, 1901, the remnants of this company were amalgamated with No. 3 (Captain F. J. Duncan's) Mounted Company. Its services were recognised by Colonel Dalgetty for its stubborn gallantry at Wepener, and by Colonel Marshall and General Clements.

The following exposed their lives to save others:— Nos. 4,009 Private Thom, 4,108 Colour-Sergt. Macgregor, 3,389 Private J. Allan.

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3rd Section M.I. SUMMARY OF EVENTS, 3RD COMPANY OF MOUNTED INFANTRY.

Commander—Captain F. J. Duncan.
Strength—107.
Date formed—6th March, 1900.

It operated in the Orange Free State on the line of communication, took part in a number of actions about Thaba 'Nchu and elsewhere, and in the pursuit of De Wet.

It gained much commendation for its high state of efficiency, the remarkable rapidity with which it could saddle up and be ready to move, and for the good work it did throughout the campaign.

4th Section M.I. SUMMARY OF EVENTS, 4TH HALF-COMPANY OF MOUNTED INFANTRY.

Commander—Lieut. Pratt, until invalided, then Captain MacLean, until appointed Adjutant 12th Battalion M.I., with which the company was serving.

Took part in the operations about Pietersburg and towards Zoutspansberg, April to July, 1901; about Nylstroom and Zand River, July to August, 1901, with Colonel Woods' column; subsequently with Colonel Dawkins in the Eastern Transvaal in October, 1901, to the end of the war, including many successful night attacks and the great "drives," capturing many hundreds of prisoners and much stock.

HONOURS GAINED.

Major W. Douglas. Mentioned in Despatches; D.S.O., *London Gazette*, 19/4/01.
Major L. W. Bodé. Mentioned in Despatches; D.S.O., *L. G.*, 10/9/01.
Major E. Molyneux-Seel. Mentioned in South African Army Orders and in Despatches; D.S.O., *L. G.*, 10/9/01.
Captain G. Davidson. Despatches; D.S.O., *L. G.*, 10/9/01.
Captain H. McMicking. Despatches; D.S.O., *L. G.*, 10/0/91.
Captain F. J. Duncan. Despatches (twice); Brevet-Major, *L. G.*, 10/9/01 and 31/10/02; D.S.O.
Captain E. H. F. Wingate. Brevet-Major; *L. G.*, 10/9/00.
Captain and Adjutant A. J. G. Moir. Despatches (twice); Brevet-Major, *L. G.*'s 10/9/01 and 20/8/01.
Captain C. C. Daniel. Despatches; *L. G.*, 10/9/01.
Captain I. F. F. Gardiner. Despatches; *L. G.*, 10/9/01.

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Honours Gained.

Captain R. W. Campbell. Despatches; *L. G.*, 10/9/01.
Lieut. D. C. H. Maclean. Despatches (twice); D.S.O., *L. G.*, 10/9/01 and 31/10/02.
Lieut. A. C. Pratt. Despatches; *L. G.*, 10/9/01.
Lieut. C. L. Price. Despatches (twice). Recommended for V.C.; *L. G.* 10/9/01 and 20/8/01.
Lieut. R. Drysdale. Despatches; *L. G.*, 10/9/01.
Lieut. H. L. Budge. Despatches; *L. G.* 10/9/01.
Second-Lieut. N. K. Charteris. Despatches; *L. G.*, 10/9/01.
Lieut. L. K. Smith. Despatches (twice); D.S.O., *L. G.*, 10/9/01.
Second-Lieut. P. C. Dalmahoy. Despatches; D.S.O., *L.G.*, 31/10/02.
Sergt.-Major A. Smith. Despatches (twice); D.C.M., *L. G.*, 10/9/01 and 31/10/02.
1631 Colr.-Sergt. A. Smith. Despatches; D.C.M., *L. G.*, 10/9/01.
4106 ,, J. McGregor. Despatches; *L. G.*, 10/9/01, and Distinguished Conduct Medal.

8079	Corpl. J. H. Greig	,,	,, & D.C.M.
4686	Private J. McVey	,,	,, ,,
4247	,, J. Miller	,,	,, ,,
3181	,, M. Ferris	,,	,, ,,
6411	,, S. Cownie	,,	,, ,,
3596	,, C. Holland	,,	,,
3704	,, C. Howard	,,	,, ,,
6178	Drummer O. Davies	,,	,, ,,
3389	Private T. Allan	,,	,, ,,
4009	,, D. Thom	,,	,, ,,
3515	Colr.-Sergt. H. Grey	,,	,,
5136	Sergeant C. Prince	,,	,,
3474	,, McBean	,,	*L. G.*, 12/10-01 & D.C.M.
4209	,, C. S. Sharp	,,	,, ,,
3799	,, C. Emmett	,,	*L. G.*, 10/9/01
4057	,, J. Duncanson	,,	,,
2056	,, J. Meechan	,,	,,
4126	Lance-Corporal Keating	,,	,,
3101	Private W. Swift	,,	,,
3389	,, J. Allan	,,	,,
3399	,, J. W. Crawford	,,	,,
656	Bandsman J. McKay	,,	,,
3800	Private H. Ingram	,,	,,
3178	,, A. E. Waterhouse	,,	,,
3877	,, G. Kniveton	,,	,,
3643	,, J. Lynch	,,	,,
3221	,, J. Watson	,,	,,
8093	,, J. Purvis	,,	,,
4123	Lance-Corporal J. McMillan	,,	29/8/01
6990	,, G. McGill	,,	,,
6996	,, C. Fox	,,	,,

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Promoted for Gallantry in the Field by the Commander in-Chief :—

3842 Corporal A. Paul to Sergeant, 16/5/01.
8187 Private A. Blease to Corporal, 5/4/02.
8235 Drummer R. Robertson ,, ,,
8355 Private J. Lockhart ,, ,,
7143 ,, F. Colton ,, ,,
6536 ,, A. Hough ,, ,,

Plate XXIII., page 80 & 81

THE FOLLOWING LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE WAR :—

Major R. L. Macgregor.
,, E. H. S. Twyford.
Captain T. S. C. W. Broadley.
Lieutenant R. Drysdale.
2nd Lieutenant J. S. Preston.
Sergeant-Major A. H. Lorentz.
Color-Sergeant J. McGregor.
Sergeant J. Dudgeon.
,, J. Taylor.
,, G. Robertson.
Lance-Sergeant W. H. Martin.
Corporal R. Macdonald.
,, H. Massey.
,, R. McDowell.
,, T. Marks.
Lance-Corporal W. Mitchell.
,, H. Hill.
,, W. Spence.
,, T. Clarke.
,, G. Brown.
,, Williamson.
Private M. Larnie.
,, G. Oglesby.
,, H. Carter.
,, G. Pratt.
,, J. Stanton.
,, J. Brand.
,, S. Wallace.
,, W. Hardiment.
,, G. King.
,, J. McCormack.
,, A. Emsley.
,, J. Smith.
,, J. Dodds.
,, S. Watkins.
Private J. McIver.
,, F. Battison.
,, F. Jones.
,, W. Wilson.
,, D. Lambert.
,, D. Lonie.
,, H. Owen.
,, T. Savage.
,, J. Andrews.
,, A. Edwards.
,, C. Neal.
,, J. Stewart.
,, J. Whiteley.
,, A. Kelly.
,, A. Alvey.
,, J. Murray.
,, J. Fisher.
,, C. Butler.
,, B. Scrutton.
,, E. Elliot.
,, W. Sheddon.
,, J. Munro.
,, M. Jayes.
,, T. Dickson.
,, C. Allan.
,, W. Earle.
,, F. Truss.
,, A. Park.
,, A. C. May.
,, A. McKenzie.
,, J. Sloane.
,, W. Pike.
,, A. Darling.
,, H. Purser.
,, H. Fear.

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The Royal Scots Memorial in St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh. Plat

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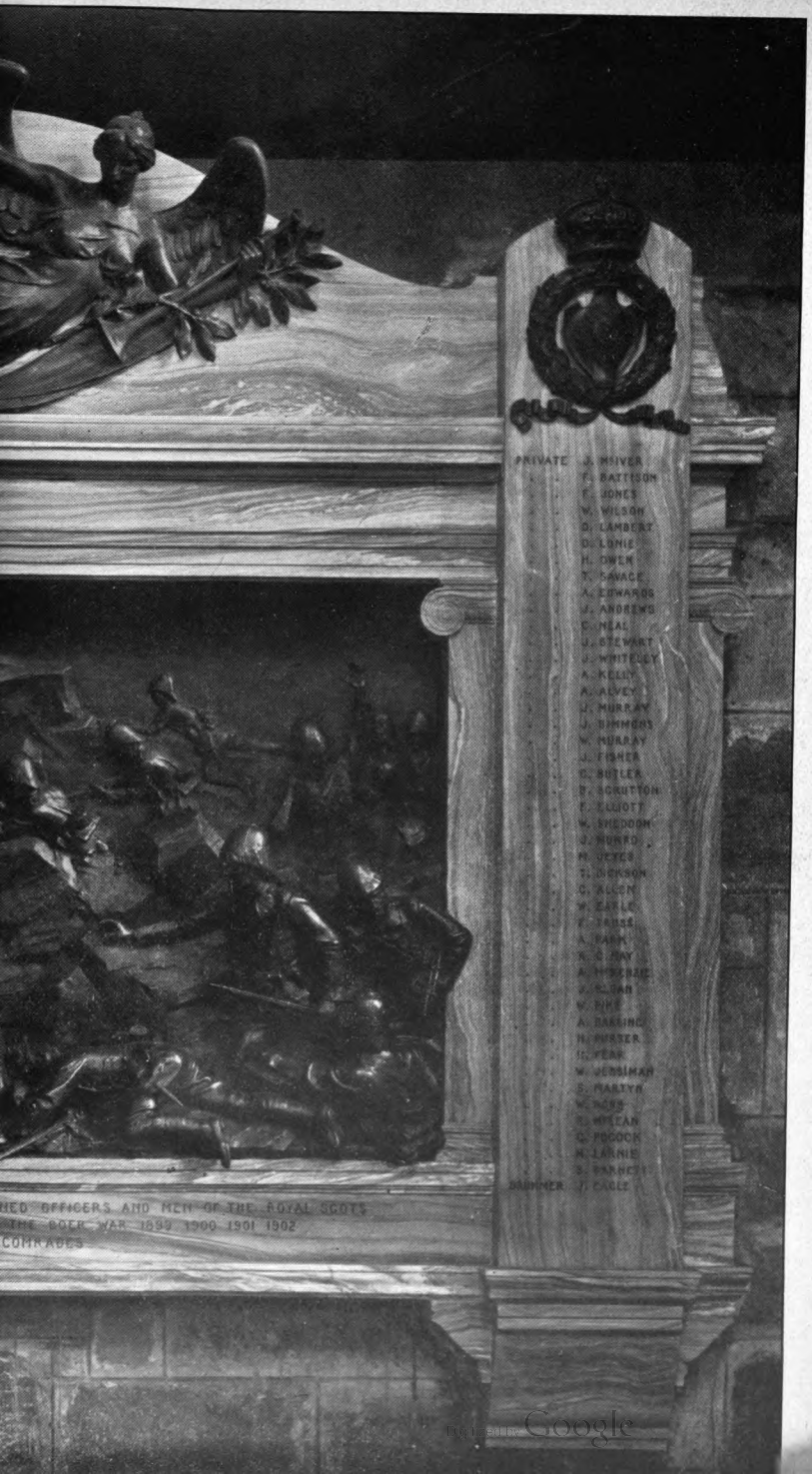

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Private J. Blair.
,, D. Dodds.
,, W. Baxter.
,, J. Watson.
,, A. Bradford.
,, F. Archer.
,, J. Johnstone.
,, J. Dickson.
,, J. Wilson.

Private W. Jessiman.
,, S. Martyn.
,, W. Ross.
,, R. McLean.
,, G. Pocock.
,, S. Barnett.
Dr. J. Eagle.
Private Jacques.
,, Miller.

THE FOLLOWING WERE WOUNDED DURING THE WAR:—

Capt. and Adjt. A. J. G. Moir.
Lieut. H. R. M. Bourne.
2nd Lieut. H. L. Budge.
,, P. C. Dalmahoy.
4064 Private R. Toshack.
3596 ,, G. Holland.
6399 ,, J. Narey.
3955 ,, J. Salt.
6608 ,, T. Hunter.
3613 Sergeant W. Sharpe.
3474 Corporal W. McBean.
6108 Private J. Henderson.
2072 ,, A. Wilson (died).
3876 Lance-Sergeant T. Gray.
6371 Lance-Corporal T. Forbes.
4163 ,, H. Coyle.
3204 Private J. Triplow.
3562 Lance-Corporal T. Lawlor.
4033 Private R. Whiteside.
6304 ,, H. Kane.
6336 ,, A. Simmons.
5989 Lance-Corporal H. Hill (died).
4021 Private A. Edwards (died).
4857 ,, G. Gunn.
3098 Lance-Corporal S. Holt.

2454 Private W. Buchanan.
1319 ,, E. Cleaver.
1596 ,, A. Crichton.
6421 ,, R. Jackson.
3571 ,, T. Brennan.
3810 ,, H. Binnersley
4236 ,, H. Preston.
5678 ,, J. Bathgate.
6936 ,, J. Webb.
2817 ,, F. Dakers.
4021 ,, A. Alvey (died).
4086 ,, J. Blyth.
1790 ,, G. Bradley.
4123 Lance-Corpl. J. McMillan.
1936 Private R. Millar.
6458 ,, E. Kelly.
3345 ,, D. Ross.
6355 ,, E. Bleach.
3839 ,, G. Hastie.
6702 ,, J. Jackson.
3633 ,, E. Battersby.
6990 Lance-Corpl. G. McGill.
6751 Private G. Tyler.
6690 ,, J. McKay.
6573 ,, G. McGill.
5101 Corporal T. Marks (died)

GALLANT DEEDS.

A fact worthy of the traditions of the Regiment was, that, though during the war surrenders on the part of portions of the army were not infrequent, there was not a single case of surrender of a party of the Royal Scots, and the fine feeling of *esprit de corps* which existed is exemplified by the death of No. 3395 Sergt. G. Robertson.

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Sergt. Robertson On the 23rd March, 1901, he was in command of a party of about twenty men of various corps, as escort to a train from Pretoria. On nearing Pan (E. Transvaal) the train was stopped by the Boers blowing up the line, and who attacked in force; they were concealed a few yards from the train in a trench. The escort at once, under Sergeant Robertson's orders, opened fire; the Boers called upon him to surrender, his reply was shouted out—"No surrender." He was immediately shot through the head.

Major Twyford Another similar instance was that of Major Twyford, when, on 13th of April, 1901, he, with an escort of seven mounted men, was attacked by Jan de Beer's Commando in the Badfontein Valley. This party took up their position in a ruined farmhouse; the Boers in overwhelming force closed on them, and called upon Major Twyford to surrender; he declined to do so, and continued to fire his rifle until shot down and killed.

Private Adams On the 16th May, 1901, during the action at Bermondsey, 2nd Lieut. Dalmahoy and two privates were lying wounded on open ground, under fire of the Boers at a range of 400 yards, No. 6853 Pte. Adams crawled out to Lieut. Dalmahoy with a field bandage. Lieut. Dalmahoy, knowing the imminent danger, would not accept his aid, but Private Adams remained

Lieut. Price with him until he was carried in. Lieut. Price, arriving at the firing line, noticed the danger of these wounded; he called for three volunteers to assist him in fetching in the others. No. 6990 Lance-Corporal McGill, No. 6996 Lance-Corporal Fox, and No. 4123 Lance-Corporal McMillan at once responded. Lieut. Price ordered them to take off their accoutrements and jackets, and the four ran out and carried in the wounded. All this was done under heavy fire, and during the time they were doing it, Lieut. Dalmahoy was again hit (head), Private Sheddon was killed, and Lance-Corporal McMillan was wounded.

There were many other instances of individual gallantry.

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